Editorials: The New ESPR Subject Area Framework

ESPR Subject Area 5 'Environmental Microbiology, (Bio)Technologies, Health Issues'

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Preface

As shown in the Editorial 'Scientific Expertise – The Backbone of Our Journal', ten major subject areas have been identified for the new **Subject Area Framework** (see the front and back inside cover) (Young & Heinrich 2006). In reality, there are nine areas because the tenth was a Section for papers from China to present the ongoing research progress in this very fast developing country.

Due to the increased awareness of publications from China by the scientific community, these articles can now be allocated to the nine subject areas (see the Editorial on p. 445).

This contribution is the fifth part of a series of editorials, in which we introduce the new conceptual framework of ESPR – the Subject Areas and the associated Subject Editors – and present an overview of recently published papers in the scope of the individual subject areas.

As part of the new structure of the journal, the classical editorial board has been replaced by the new and more targeted concept of the Principal Subject Editor, the Subject Editor and the Associated Subject Editor. The Principal Editors are responsible for the development of one of the nine major Subject Areas, while the Subject Editors' role is to develop more specific and defined subcategories. Principal and Subject Editors both have a key role in soliciting papers as well as in monitoring trends and developments in the Subject Areas. The Associated Subject Editors support the Subject Editors, i.e. their main responsibility it is to guide the papers through the review process in the function of Submission Editors.

Following the presentations of Subject Area 1 (Hollert, Hecker, Xu 2006), Subject Area 2 (Braunbeck 2007), Subject Area 3 (Lammel 2007) and Subject Area 4 (Chang 2007, Luthardt 2007, van Leeuwen 2007, Wagner 2007, Young 2007), we, the Principal Editors for Area 5, are pleased to introduce ourselves as well as the Subject and Associate Subject Editors pertaining to this area. Furthermore, we reference here the papers from Subject Area 5 published in this issue in order to provide our readers, in the scope of this Preface, a thorough overview on the new ESPR Framework as has been introduced so far.

Finally, we invite the ESPR community for contributions to this area, in the form of papers (research articles, review articles, discussion articles, commentaries, guest editorials, opinion papers), but also in the form of suggestions, advice and criticism. Your submissions will be welcome and highly appreciated.

Jean-Paul Schwitzguébel and Hailong Wang

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